

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

[By C. G. AUSTIN, Hon. Librarian]

(Read at a meeting of the Society on June 26, 1958)

The inaugural meeting of the society was held on August 21, 1913, in the Albert Hall, Brisbane, under the chairmanship of the Governor, Sir William MacGregor.

Prior to this, a provisional committee had been formed, and as the members were responsible for the birth of this society, their names deserve to be recorded:—

Patron, His Excellency Sir William MacGregor; Provisional Committee: E. C. Barton, Esq., M.I.E.E.; The Rev. C. E. Burgess, M.A.; Col. The Honourable J. F. G. Foxton, C.M.G.; J. J. Knight, Esq.; Captain J. Mackay, I.S.O.; J. L. Michie, Esq., M.A.; The Honourable Sir Arthur Morgan, M.L.C.; T. J. Ryan, Esq., B.A., M.L.A.; W. J. Scott, Esq., I.S.O.; The Honourable A. J. Thynne, M.L.C.; Thornhill Weedon, Esq., F.S.S.; J. L. Woolcock, Esq., B.A.

The guiding influence in the formation of the society came from the University, as shown by the Provisional Honorary Secretaries, who at that time were:—

F. W. S. Cumbræ-Stewart, Esq., B.A., B.C.L.; A. C. V. Melbourne, Esq., B.A.

The office bearers were appointed at the inaugural meeting, with the Hon. Sir Arthur Morgan as President. Vice-Presidents and council members were selected from the members of the provisional committee, with the addition of Messrs. J. M. Davidson and Captain W. C. Thomson.

The first paper delivered to the society was "The Methods of Historical Research," read by Mr. A. C. V. Melbourne at the inaugural meeting. A more fitting paper could not have been presented.

Council meetings were held on September 26, 1913, and February 5, 1914. The first general meeting of the society was held on April 17, 1914, when papers were read by Mr. F. W. S. Cumbræ-Stewart on "The Memorials in St. John's Cathedral," and by Mr. A. C. V. Melbourne on "The Development of the Constitution of Queensland."

The affairs of the society were disorganised when war broke out in August 1914, and the consequent

calling out for service of Mr. Cumbrae-Stewart and Mr. Melbourne.

The roll of original members of the society is given on page 11 of Volume I, No. I of the society's Journal. The names of many well-known Queensland families are represented in the roll.

The second Annual General Meeting of the society was held on April 16, 1915, under the chairmanship of His Excellency, Sir Hamilton Gould-Adams, who had accepted the position of patron in succession to Sir William MacGregor.

Nothing daunted by the impact of war on the State's finances, the Governor spoke in favour of subsidising research into the history of the State. He pointed out that in South Africa an endowment of £500 per annum existed to promote the study of one topic alone—the emigration of the Boers from the Cape across the Vaal.

This second Annual General Meeting was held on April 16, 1915, only nine days before a fateful day in the history of Australia—the landing at Gallipoli.

The society continued to progress, but suffered the loss of the President, Sir Arthur Morgan, on December 20, 1916. The next President was Mr. F. W. S. Cumbrae-Stewart, and despite having lost a large number of members through deaths and resignations, the society remained active and took a prominent part in celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the Brisbane River by John Oxley on December 2, 1823.

The first visit of the society to Newstead is found in Volume II No. 3 of the Journal:—

“The Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman H. J. Diddams, C.M.G., a foundation member of the society, invited a large number of pioneers and others, including the President and other representatives of the society, to Newstead, formerly the residence of Captain Wickham, R.N., at the mouth of Breakfast Creek, on the afternoon of Saturday, December 1, 1923, in sight of the discoverer's first landing place within the present city area.”

Little is recorded of the society's activities from 1923 to 1928, except that the society in co-operation with the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Queensland Branch, launched a public appeal for funds to erect a cairn at Round Hill Head, Bustard Bay, in

memory of Captain Cook, who was the first member of the British race to land on the Queensland coast.

The cairn was unveiled on June 12, 1926, by Commodore George F. Hyde, R.A.N., who voyaged in H.M.A.S. "Sydney" to Bustard Bay. Report of the unveiling was given in the society's Journal Vol. II No. 4, published in March 1928.

Activities of the society were resumed in 1929, when papers were again read at meetings of the society, but the revival came with the election of Mr. Inigo Jones as President in 1930, with an active and well-informed council. Those members, who brought about the revival deserve mention. They were:—

President, Mr. Inigo Jones; Vice-Presidents, Dr. F. W. S. Cumbrae-Stewart, Mr. Thomas Welsby, and Dr. E. S. Jackson; Council, Hon. C. Jameson, Capt. W. C. Thomson, Professor H. Alcock, Professor Michie, Messrs. A. Kennedy, A. Pixley, T. Mathewson, F. O. Nixon, W. Lees and C. Melton; Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. E. Round; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Welsby.

Lectures were given as a rule every month excepting December, from September 1931. Later, lectures were given every month excepting December and January, and this practice has remained.

The society has continued up to the present time, and while progress has not always been spectacular, it has followed the objects outlined at the inaugural meeting, embracing (1) "the study of the history of that part of the British Empire now included in the Territories of Queensland and New Guinea, and of the adjacent islands of the Pacific"; and (2) "the collection and preservation of material for such study."

The Presidents of the society have been:—

Sir Arthur Morgan, 1913-December 20, 1916; Mr. F. W. S. Cumbrae-Stewart, 1917-1924; Mr. Inigo Jones, 1930-1935; Sir Raphael Cilento, 1935-1936; Mr. Thomas Welsby, 1936-May 25, 1937; Mr. Fergus McMaster, May 25, 1937-1940; Mr. M. P. Campbell, 1940-1941; Mr. Geoffrey Ward, 1941-1943; Sir Raphael Cilento, 1943-1945; Professor Henry Alcock, 1945-April 26, 1948; Mr. Allan A. Morrison, 1948-1953; Sir Raphael Cilento, 1953—.

The Honorary Secretaries have been:—

Mr. A. C. V. Melbourne, 1913-1914; Mr. H. Alcock, 1914-1917; Mr. R. C. Draney, 1917-1923;¹ Mr. A. E.

1. Mr. A. E. Palfery, 1923-24. Miss C. McWhinney, 1924.

Round, 1930-1935; Mr. F. Genty, 1935-May 25, 1937; Mr. A. G. Davies, May 25, 1937-May, 1946; Mr. Firmin McKinnon, August 1, 1946-March, 1947; Mr. Alex Morrison, March, 1947-April 30, 1958; Mr. K. T. Cameron, June 1, 1958—.

It will be seen that the Honorary Secretary who held the post for the longest period was Alex Morrison.

The society has been fortunate in the long service given by office-bearers. There is not sufficient space to list all office-bearers, but some who have given long service are:—

Mr. F. O. Nixon, Councillor 1930-1931, Honorary Auditor 1932-1942, Vice-President from 1943 until his death in 1955.

Mr. Arthur Laurie, Councillor 1934-1942, Vice-President from 1943 onwards, and now the Senior Vice-President.

Mr. J. W. Collinson, Honorary Treasurer from 1939, still occupying that position.

Mr. J. H. C. McClurg, Councillor from 1943 to the present time.

The society met in various rooms in the city, often the University in George Street, until May, 1932, when three rooms at Newstead House were made available to the society. This was of tremendous assistance to the society, as it then had a permanent home, and its prized possessions could be housed. The credit for this move was given to Mr. M. P. Campbell, who first made the suggestion. However, the person who exceeded the bounds of duty in furthering the interests of the society was the Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson, who publicly and frequently urged the Government to give the society complete use of this house.

Credit must also be given to the Brisbane City Council, who were the owners of the House and who charged the society a “peppercorn” rental. The present Senior Vice-President, Mr. Arthur Laurie, also played his part.

The society was given the use of the whole of Newstead House in February 1940, when the Newstead House Trust was established. The trustees appointed were — the holders of the offices of — Treasurer of Queensland (Chairman), President of the Historical Society, and Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Subsequently, the Under Secretary, Treasury Department, replaced the Treasurer as Chairman.

The assistance given to this society by the trust is gratefully acknowledged.

The State Government and the Brisbane City Council very generously shared the cost of reconstructing Newstead House, which was then badly in need of repair. The society took full possession of a house which was completely renovated, and which was rent-free.

The story of "Newstead" can be found in the society's Journals, and in the booklet published by Mr. L. E. Slaughter.

The society did not enjoy possession of Newstead for very long, as owing to the exigencies of war the society gave up possession to the United States Army in February 1942. This old house has had many tenants, but none perhaps as strange as the photographic unit which occupied "Newstead" until March 1945. The ghost of Captain Wickham may have stirred when American soldiers played football on the lawn adjacent to this house.

It is only fitting that the first American War Memorial erected in Australia, should stand on Newstead Point.

The trust did not demand any rent from the American Army, but in return the Secretary of the Society was given a small room in the Builders' Exchange Building, 26 Wharf Street, Brisbane, and the society met in the lecture room at the same building, at the cost of the American Army.

Unfortunately, all the society's possessions were crammed into three small rooms at Newstead, and some were damaged, and some lost their identification tags.

The society continued its monthly meetings in the Builders' Exchange Building, with surprisingly good attendances. In keeping with the times, Captain L. E. Jennings, of the United States Army, in May 1942, gave an address to the society on the pioneering of America, for which he chose the title "Following the American Frontier."

Also appropriate to the time was the talk given by Captain J. W. Herd, in April 1942, on "The Salvaging of Niagara's Gold."

After three years in the city the society returned to the historic house of Newstead, and meetings have been held here ever since.

Society's Publications

Journal: One of the objects of the society was the publication of the proceedings of the society, and in keeping with this object, the first Journal was published in 1920. Owing to lack of finance all papers read to the society were not published, but for purposes of record, the following Journals have been issued: Vol. I parts 1-6; Vol. II, parts 1-6; Vol. III, parts 1-6; Vol. IV, parts 1-5; Vol. V, parts 1-4.

Vol. V No. 5 is now in course of publication and contains papers delivered in the year 1957.

Bulletin: Credit for publication of the monthly bulletin must be given to Mr. Geoffrey Ward, President of the society in 1942. The first issue in April 1942 commences with:—

“The question of the desirability of keeping the members of the society better informed as to its activities and progress was raised by the President (Mr. Geoffrey Ward) at a recent meeting of the council. It was agreed, that by way of an experiment, a summary of current items of interest should be prepared and sent to the members, together with the notices for the next succeeding monthly meeting.”

The Bulletin is issued each month except December and January, the last issue in June 1958 being No. 160. These 160 bulletins contain a mine of information on the history of Queensland, for which Honorary Secretaries should receive the credit, assisted at times by members of the society, particularly Mr. E. V. Stevens, Honorary Life Member, an indefatigable researcher.

The Welsby Memorial Library

The society started collecting books almost from the outset, as one of the prized possessions is a typed copy of the autobiography of John Watts, a pioneer settler on the Darling Downs, presented by the first President, Sir Arthur Morgan.

A small library was gradually established by donations of books from members, and surplus books held by stores and organisations. An almost complete issue of the “Week,” published from 1876-1934 was obtained from the “Telegraph” Newspaper Company.

Photographs, maps, and press cutting books were added to the collection, which with the issues of periodicals, and journals received in exchange with other historical societies, formed the nucleus of a small library.

A library sub-committee commenced the work of cataloguing books, papers and documents in 1936, but as the society gave up possession of this house from 1942 to 1945, the library was locked up for three years, and all work ceased.

After the war, work was resumed, but the greatest impetus to the formation of a suitable library occurred when the Welsby collection was acquired. Mr. Thomas Welsby, a foundation member of this society, Council Member, Vice-President, and President, made many gifts to the society of letters, newspaper cuttings, documents, scrap books and copies of his published books, but his most generous gift was the bequest of his library of more than 2,000 volumes. This bequest was made with the important proviso that any books not considered relevant to the aims of the society could be sold, and the proceeds retained by the society.

Mr. Welsby² had acquired a large collection of French memoirs, with more than 100 books on Napoleon, together with the standard authors such as Dickens, Thackeray, Jane Austen, Conrad, etc. These books were sold and the proceeds paid into a special library trust fund, out of which further additions have been made to the library.

The existing library was amalgamated with the Welsby collection, and His Excellency Sir John Lavarack, as patron of the society, opened the Welsby Library on March 15, 1947.

The names of all those who have donated books to the library are too numerous to read, but mention should be made of total donations of £55 from the Queensland Women's Historical Association, which has, or will be spent on acquiring Beaglehold's edition of Captain Cook's Journals and Charts, and on the recently issued Australian Encyclopaedia.

This library has been established at a total cost of 5/6 to the society for books, as every other volume was donated. I sometimes regret that I asked the society for this small sum to purchase Craig's "History of the Moreton Bay Settlement." Later, we acquired another copy in the Welsby collection.

With the establishment of the Welsby Library it was essential that a proper index of books be main-

2. *A tribute to Mr. Welsby can be found in the Society's Journal, Vol. IV, No. 5, pp. 619-636.*

tained. In addition the thousands of newspaper cuttings and documents, etc., and photographs, had to be stored in such a manner that access was easy and quick.

The first step was a visit to the Mitchell Library, Sydney, where the problem was discussed with Miss Mander Jones and Miss Sherrie, and their advice was of great practical use. The Dewey system is not in use, but a decimal system which can be expanded as the need arises, and which is suitable for a relatively small specialised library, has been adopted.

The classification list for this purpose was drawn up by Miss Mander Jones and Miss Sherrie in collaboration with Mr. Harrison Bryan. This list has proved elastic and practical.

Members of the various sub-committees of the council are listed in the society's Journals, but in practice, all those who attend Newstead House on the Sunday before the monthly meeting are co-opted onto the Library Sub-Committee.

The cataloguing and indexing of books, newspaper cuttings, documents, photographs, shipping log books, maps, charts, lantern slides, and photo negatives, etc., is a never-ending task, and although much has been done, there is still more to do.

What has been achieved could not have been accomplished without the loyal help of many members of the council, and of the society, and of friends of the society. Mr. James Dickson's comprehensive index of Stuart Russell's "Genesis of Queensland" has proved invaluable.

It is fitting here to acknowledge the co-operation received from the Oxley Memorial Library, the University Library, the Parliamentary Library and the Mitchell Library.

Papers Published by the Society

It would be an invidious task to try to assess the historical and literary value of papers published by the society, and no such attempt is made. One of the objects of the society is the collection of "unpublished records of discovery and settlement, letters, manuscripts, diaries, and personal narrations of explorers and early settlers." The papers now listed are selected from the rather narrow viewpoint of a librarian because they contain hitherto unpublished material, or are told by an eye-witness to an event. This selection,

in the time allowed, cannot be any more than a sample of the papers published, and preference is given to those who have contributed a series of papers.

First of all, one paper deserves special mention. This was the paper on "Methods of Historical Research," read by Mr. A. C. V. Melbourne (later Professor) at the inaugural meeting of the society on August 18, 1913. Unfortunately, the Journal in which this paper was printed, Vol. I No. 1 has been out of print for many years, but the merit of this paper is so high that the society could well consider republishing this paper.

The first paragraph begins:—"It has been well said that 'the care which a nation devotes to the preservation of the monuments of its past may serve as a true measure of the degree of civilisation to which it has attained'; and from then on this paper can be regarded as the gospel this society should follow.

The next paper chosen is the paper read by Mr. Cumbræ-Stewart on April 17, 1914, with the title "Notes on the Registers and Memorials of St. John's Cathedral, Brisbane." This paper is selected because it gives information on hitherto unpublished records and copious notes add to its value.

The speaker gave the church its full title—The Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist, and pointed out that this was the third of the buildings which, in succession, have been the chief places of worship of the Church of England in Brisbane.

Previous to May 21, 1839, when the Imperial Penal Settlement at Moreton Bay was broken up, there had been a chaplain, but no church. The only chaplain of whom the speaker could find any record was the Reverend John Vincent, appointed by Governor Darling on September 18, 1828. The chaplain's residence was on or near the site now occupied by the Executive Building, between William and George Streets.

Captain John Clements Wickham, a resident of this house, appointed Police Magistrate for the district of Moreton Bay, arrived in Brisbane by the steamer "Shamrock" in January, 1843. On the same vessel was the Reverend John Gregor, who had been appointed Chaplain at Moreton Bay. Mr. Gregor held the licence of the Bishop of Australia (Broughton), whose diocese had been carved out of the Diocese of Calcutta.

As there was no other building available for a church, a carpenter's shop and store, built upon the land marked "lumber yard" in Colonel Barney's map of 1839, was used for church purposes. The spot at the time the paper was given, 1914, was then occupied by Wests Pictures. It now forms part of the space occupied by the recently erected Prudential Assurance Building.

On June 29, 1847, William Tyrrell was consecrated in Westminster Abbey as first Bishop of Newcastle, whose diocese included Moreton Bay. One of the first difficulties was to find a successor to the Rev. John Gregor, drowned at Nundah on January 22, 1848. Not being able to send a priest, he sent Benjamin Glennie, a deacon, to take charge until a priest was available in the Reverend H. O. Irwin, of Singleton, who arrived in Brisbane in March 1848, and remained until 1855. During Mr. Irwin's time a church was built which was consecrated in 1854. The church so consecrated became the Cathedral Church of the diocese, and remained so until it was pulled down in 1904. Its site is now marked by a white marble slab let into the pavement in the gardens in front of the Executive Building.

The foundation stone of the present Cathedral was laid on May 24, 1901, by H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York, later King George V.

As can be well understood, the entries in the church register and on memorial tablets depict events which are part of the history of Moreton Bay and Queensland.

Some of the information which this society obtained on the life of Captain Wickham is found in this paper. There is one correction, however, to be made. The statement that Captain Wickham was buried at St. Jean de Luz is incorrect. It has now been found that he was buried in the cemetery of St. Martin's Church, Biarritz.

A white marble tablet commemorates David Keith Ballow, late Colonial Assistant Surgeon, who, on the arrival in this port of the ship "Emigrant," having malignant typhus fever on board, with which the medical officer of the ship was seized and subsequently died, nobly undertook the duties of Surgeon-Superintendent of the quarantine station, at Dunwich, and fell himself a victim. Born at Montrose, Scotland, on October 17, 1804; died September 29, 1850.

Doctor Ballow was almost forty-six years old at the date of his death; the ship's surgeon, Dr. George Mitchell, died on September 15, 1850, aged twenty-five years.

The value of this paper is enhanced by the copious footnotes giving references, and the detail which accompanies the names in the register.

Another paper by Mr. Cumbræ-Stewart on "The Moreton Bay Postal System," is valuable by reason of the information contained therein, and in foot-notes. The standard was maintained in a comprehensive review by Mr. Cumbræ-Stewart of "Some Queensland Memoir Writers."

The first of Mr. Thomas Welsby's many contributions to the society is found in Vol. I No. 3, when he gave a paper on "Recollections of the Natives of Moreton Bay." A list of native names of fishes, birds, trees, etc., common to Moreton Bay in the Noon-nuckle (Stradbroke Island) dialect was given as an appendix.

The question of coloured labour in Queensland has had many researchers, and still has, so it is no wonder that a paper on this question appeared early in the society's journals. Mr. B. H. Molesworth on July 6, 1916, read a paper on "Kanaka Labour in Queensland," covering the period 1863 to 1871.

A combination of personal experiences helped to make the next paper read by Mr. Cumbræ-Stewart a memorable one. The paper, "First Attempts at Settlement in New Guinea," was read on May 3, 1916, and covered all attempts at colonising New Guinea, leading up to the formation, at Sydney, in 1871, of the "New Guinea Prospecting Association." This association chartered the ill-fated "Maria," which was wrecked on Bramble Reef, thirty miles from Cardwell on February 26, 1872. Out of a complement of seventy-five persons, thirty-five were either drowned or killed by aboriginals.

Mr. Thomas Ingham, one of the survivors, attended this meeting and related his personal experiences, and one can imagine his feelings when he described his rescue by H.M.S. "Basilisk" in these words: "And along we went, and got to the shore just in time to see the boat run on to the beach, with the bluejackets of dear old England pulling, and Captain Moresby in the stern in uniform, with the familiar gold lace and buttons. . . ."

Captain Thomson, who occupied the chair at this meeting, gave, in his usual blunt fashion, this information:—

“She first appeared in these waters under the name “Drucut.” She traded from San Francisco. In 1852 she had as the mate a man named Cottier. On the death of her captain, Cottier married his widow and got the brig.

In January 1872, I was in Sydney, and hearing that the “Maria” needed a captain, I went on board . . . I was told they needed men, not boys. However, I was determined to try again, and went on board, and as I did so caught hold of the backstay and pulled it down. That was enough for me. Someone asked me what I wanted, and I said, “Nothing, thanks; your ship’s too rotten! Good-day!”

Many of the original and early members of the society had played their part in the development of the State, and their reminiscences contain a vast amount of unpublished material. Papers which fall into this category are:—

Personal Reminiscences of ’53, Mr. J. Mathewson, Vol. I No. 2; The Hamlet’s Ghost, Captain W. Thomson, Vol. I No. 5; Old Bulimba, Mr. W. Johnston, Vol. I No. 5; The Founding of Rockhampton, and the Archer Brothers, Mr. W. Clark, Vol. I No. 6; When Woolloomgabba was Wattle Scented, Mr. C. Melton, Vol. I No. 6; Fortitude Valley, Mr. C. Melton, Vol. II No. 2; Reminiscences of North Queensland, Mr. W. H. Corfield, Vol. II No. 2; The Queen Street Fire of 1864, Mr. C. Melton, Vol. II No. 5; John Campbell—a Squatter of ’41, T. Welsby, Vol. III No. 1.

John Oxley’s influence on Moreton Bay history is covered in a paper by Mr. Nicholas Lockyer, entitled “The Discovery of the Brisbane River,” published in Vol. II No. 1, and numbers 3 and 4 of this volume are devoted to “Extracts from the field books of Mr. John Oxley, relating to the discovery of the Brisbane River” and “the site of the City of Brisbane” respectively.

Alfred G. Davies, Honorary Secretary, was a world-wide authority on sailing ships. He had served before the mast, and as shipping reporter on the “Sydney Morning Herald” for many years, visited every ship which dropped anchor in Sydney Harbour. Many of the members of Mr. Davies’ generation had

remarkable memories, and he could remember the time taken by many sailing ships on a particular passage from England to Australia.

His papers published in the Journal cover ships and journalism, his favourite subjects. Published papers were:—

Vol. II No. 6: "The Genesis of the Port of Brisbane; Immigration and Immigrant Ships; Vol. III No. 1: Pioneer Steamships in Queensland Waters. Vol. III No. 2: Significance of Newstead. Vol. III No. 3: The Pacific Islands—Their Glamour and Their Tragedies. Vol. III No. 4: Queensland Pioneer Journals and Journalists.

Mr. Firmin McKinnon, the writer of graceful prose, first appears in the Journal Vol. III No. 2, with a paper entitled "Early Pioneers of the Wide Bay and Burnett"; and subsequently in No. 6 of the same volume, with a paper on "The Early Days of Maryborough." "The Halcyon Days of Cleveland" and "The Significance of Newstead House" appeared in later Journals.

Mr. S. E. Pearson is represented by "The South-West Corner of Queensland" in Vol. III No. 2, and in Vol. IV No. 2 by the "Kalkadoon Country."

Publication of the address given by the President on his election, first appears in Volume IV No. 4, when an address by Sir Raphael Cilento is printed. The Journal has been enriched by the Presidential addresses of Professor Henry Alcock, Mr. Allan Morrison, and again Sir Raphael Cilento.

Mr. E. V. Stevens, that indefatigable searcher for facts, as already mentioned, contributed largely to the society's Bulletin. In addition he has read papers before the society such as the "Fortitude Immigrants" in Vol. IV No. 1, and a most comprehensive survey of Blackbirding in Vol. IV No. 3, and "The Port of Brisbane" in Vol. IV No. 5. A paper on Stephen Simpson was published in Vol. V No. 1, and in No. 6 of this volume "Early Brighton and Sandgate."

Mr. L. E. Slaughter, the author of a booklet on Captain Wickham and Newstead House has read papers to the society on "Norman Creek and Surroundings"; "Sidney House" and "The Wreck of the Pearl."

A well-referenced paper on "The Problem of the French Escapees From New Caledonia," by Mr. Clem

Lack (Vol. V No. 3) discussed what was once a pressing problem in Queensland.

Commander Norman Pixley, Vice-President, has made a special study of defence, and his first paper was "The Military Defence of Queensland," published in Vol. IV No. 2, to be followed by "Queensland Police" in No. 3 of this volume.

Captain R. G. Ledley, M.M., retired, gave information on "A Notable Shipwreck of Torres Strait," Vol. V No. 3, which gave unpublished material drawn from the author's private collection. Mr. K. T. Cameron, newly-elected Honorary Secretary, has drawn on his personal experiences in Western Queensland in two papers, "Early Road Transport," Vol. V No. 1; and "Queensland's Struggle Against Rabbits," in Vol. V No. 4.

The history of a pioneer shipping company is interwoven with the history of the ports it served, and the society was fortunate to obtain the history of the well-known A.U.S.N. Coy. from this company, Vol. V No. 2.

Mr. David Macmillan, Archivist, University of Sydney, prepared a paper on "Planned State Archives—Queensland's Opportunity," in which he outlined the functions and benefits of a State archives office.

Mr. J. W. Collinson, our present Honorary Treasurer, is an authority on the history of Cairns and District, and has published five books on this area. It is not surprising to record that the first paper, given by Mr. Collinson to be published in the Journal, was "The Origin and Growth of the Sugar Industry in the Cairns District," found in Vol. III No. 4. This was the first of many papers by an authority on his subject. Others include "Cardwell," "Those Roads and Bridges," "Innisfail," and "Building the Cairns Railway."

Mr. Arthur Laurie has given many papers, and the first published was "The Shearers' and Bush Workers' Strike of 1891," to be followed by a series on the Brisbane City Council and "The History of the Isis Scrub," and "Gin Gin and Blaxland." His most recent paper, "The Hornetbank Massacre," is about to be published.

The association of the President, Mr. Allan Morrison with the University, resulted in a series of papers written by University graduates, on varying

topics. These papers were thoroughly referenced as to the source-material used, and were complete in every way.

Those published include:—

Thomas Glassey, S. A. Rayner; British New Guinea Syndicate Affair, R. Joyce; University of Queensland, H. Bryan; John Murtagh Macrossan, H. Bryan; Some Aspects of Domestic Architecture in Queensland, Miss Kathleen Lynch; The Case of Benjamin Kitt, I. S. McNaughton.

In addition, members on occasions were presented with symposia, prepared by honours students in history. The members appreciated the work of young probing minds on subjects such as the Squatter Influence, etc.

Mr. Allan Morrison has the distinction of having had most papers published by the society, but if an assessment be made on the quantity and quality of hitherto unpublished material which was brought to light, the palm must go to the paper on "William Coote," read on June 28, 1956, and published in *Journal* Vol. V No. 4.

The author told the story of Coote's life, and at times had to leave gaps, but everyone agreed with the author that there was enough "available to present the picture of a man of considerable intellect and energy, with a vigorous interest in all the major questions of his time."

The author's original purpose in the study of William Coote was to try to discover some evidence of the second volume of Coote's "History of Queensland," which was not published as a book, and which so far had eluded all searchers. The published volume covered the period up to Separation.

The author relates that by a "lucky accident," when examining the files of the "Queensland Evangelical Standard" he discovered an advertisement that the "History of Queensland" by William Coote would commence in the "Week" in the issue of April 8, 1876. The "Week" of April 8, 1876 carried the first instalment of the history as promised, and the instalment of August 5, 1876, began with the heading Book II, after Separation. Seven long instalments gave a very detailed and interesting account of the early development of Queensland with the issue of September 30, 1876, bringing the story up to the middle of 1861—but there they came to an end. And so the first known

information on Coote's Vol. II on the "History of Queensland," was published with all credit to the discoverer.

In retrospect, it can be claimed that this society has adhered to most of the objects outlined in its constitution. It has preserved all historical material which has come into its possession, and this material is gradually being filed in such a way as to permit of easy access.

Owing to lack of funds it has not published historical documents and early records, except insofar as extracts are published in the Journal and the Bulletin.

The inspection, indexing and calendaring of public records and registers can best be performed by a State Archives Office.

Little work has been done on the identification and marking of places of historical interest and their preservation for posterity. The society has combined with other organisations to this end, and the Queensland Women's Historical Association has made this work one of their prime objects.

Kindred societies and associations have been born, notably:—

The Queensland Women's Historical Association, the Wide Bay and Burnett Historical Society, the Post Office Historical Society, the Toowoomba Historical Society, the Rockhampton Historical Society.

The society now possesses a fairly representative library, and has the use of Newstead House free of charge, and is treated generously by the Government through the Newstead House Trust.

However, it has always been my opinion that the strength of this society lies in its members. As long as there are a number of persons who have the objects of the society at heart, the work of the society will continue.

Some members have retained their membership for many years, and it is a pleasing duty to record that Dr. E. O. Marks, who joined the society in 1929, thus enjoys the distinction of having the longest membership of the society.